

Active Cheshire has a Code of Conduct which outlines expectations of conduct of all individuals who may be involved in a programme of activity or an event. Active Cheshire is committed to safeguarding both children and adults at risk and we ask that everyone follows the guidelines set out in this document to enable all individuals to enjoy the opportunity to participate and get active.

If during a programme of activity or an event you are unhappy with the actions of any individual please ensure you escalate the issue to either the event organiser, or if this is not appropriate the Active Cheshire Safeguarding Lead by phoning 01606 330 212 or emailing [safeguarding@activecheshire.org](mailto:safeguarding@activecheshire.org). If you feel an individual is facing an immediate risk due to the actions of another please ensure that the police are contacted immediately.

Please note that Active Cheshire takes the safeguarding of individuals very seriously. If an incident occurs Active Cheshire may ask an individual to leave an event or project, or stop the event to deal with the situation. We ask that all individuals respect the decisions of Active Cheshire whom will carry out a thorough and fair investigation. If an issue is reported with an organiser or coach, Active Cheshire will take steps to resolve the situation, and in serious cases may terminate any ongoing contract with an individual or organisation if the issue is deemed serious or cannot be resolved. The decision of Active Cheshire and the team will be final.

Active Cheshire regularly consult with young people regarding their views on safeguarding. The majority of young people express a desire to feel safe and to be allowed to enjoy participation in sport. The views of those young people have been taken into account when producing this Code of Conduct.

## Code of Conduct for Coaches

### You should:

- Be a good role model, setting an example for others to follow
- Observe professional boundaries at all times
- Always work in and encourage an open environment (avoiding private or unobserved situations and secrets)
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants based on mutual trust and respect
- Empower children, young people and vulnerable adults to share in the decision making process

## Active Cheshire Code of Conduct

- Encourage all of your participants to accept responsibility for their behaviour and performance
- Ensure the activity is appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the participants
- Never ridicule or shout at a participant for making a mistake or losing
- Encourage players and help them to improve by using positive words and not negative criticism
- Teach players the importance of fair play and following the rules of the game/sport
- Ensure that you and your players respect your opposition, the officials, the opposing coach and their supporters
- Divide your time equally between all standards of players
- Make reasonable demands on participants' time and realise that young people have other interests too
- Always place the well-being and safety of the child above their performance
- Always follow the guidelines set out by the relevant Governing Body of sport or professional body with regards to safety and welfare
- Hold relevant, up to date, nationally recognised qualifications
- Check that you have adequate insurance to coach your sport(s)
- Be committed to developing your own skills and knowledge
- Keep written records of any incidents that occur, along with details of how they were dealt with
- Follow professional advice when determining if an injured player is ready to train
- Take responsibility for the young people in your care until they have safely left the activity
- Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation
- Remember that young people participate in sport for many reasons and winning is only part of the fun of taking part
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- At the outset, clarify with performers (and where appropriate with their parents/carers) exactly what is expected of them and what performers are entitled to expect from the coach.
- Co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists) in the best interests of the performer.
- Always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.

## Active Cheshire Code of Conduct

- Consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance, set a good example which others can follow
- Arrive in plenty of time to set up the activity

### **You should never:**

- Spend time alone with children away from others
- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make derogatory or sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun
- Let allegations a child makes go unrecorded, or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves
- Engage in personal relationships with pupils, participants or students
- Take children alone in car journeys, however short
- Take children to your home where they will be alone with you
- Have children stay at your home with you unsupervised
- Share a room with a child

## Our Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers

- Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage young people to participate, never force them.
- Focus on, and praise the effort and performance displayed, rather than the winning or losing.
- Encourage young people to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to argumentative behaviour.
- Never ridicule a young person for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that young people learn best by example. Always show appreciation for good performances displayed by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all sporting activities.
- Respect coaches' and officials' decisions and teach young people to do likewise.
- Always show appreciation for the coaches, officials and administrators. Without them there would be no activity for your child to participate in.

## Code of Conduct for Spectators

- Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
- Acknowledge good performances from all individuals and teams.

## Active Cheshire Code of Conduct

- Congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
- Never ridicule a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are always motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
- Encourage all players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Do not use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials.
- Behave responsibly. Discriminatory, offensive and violent behaviour towards any individual is unacceptable and will be acted upon.
- Respect the rights and dignity of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### Code of Conduct for Volunteers

- Respect the dignity, rights and worth of every person within the context of sport
- Treat everyone equally, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability
- Not allow any form of discrimination to be condoned or go unchallenged
- Hold paramount the well-being and safety of young people
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with young people which should be based on mutual respect and trust
- Not engage in any form of sexually related contact with a young member. This is strictly forbidden as is sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms
- Respect young people's opinions when making decisions about their participation in sport
- Be aware of and report any conflicts of interest as soon as they arise